



## What Tools does Scholar have that Blackboard doesn't?

Blog	The Blogger tool allows site participants to create and maintain weblogs (blogs), or online journals. While a blog can be created and maintained by only one person and may be kept private (i.e., the tool in My Workspace), blogs are well suited to group development and are usually intended for others to read. For reflective writing or journaling processes, a private blog may also be kept or shared between only the instructor and student.
Email Archive	When each site is created, the CLE automatically creates an email address and associates it with the site. The Email Archive tool allows you to view your site's email address and to create an alias for it that is easy to remember. You and other site participants can send an email to all members of the site (that is, to their "outside" email addresses) by sending email to this email address. The tool also archives email that has been sent to this address for future reference.
Feedback	The Feedback tool allows a site owner or instructor to post individual feedback to participants in a site. If you are an instructor, you might use Feedback to post grades and comments for individual students to view without compromising their privacy. If you are a project leader, you might use Feedback to provide feedback to individual team members and track their progress toward goals. You may also use this tool to share feedback among members. If you are a student, you see only your own scores and feedback.
News	The News tool allows you to view information from a news source, blog, events listing, or other site that updates its content dynamically. News can come from RSS "feeds" or sites that have buttons that say RSS, ATOM, & XML.
Podcasts	The Podcasts tool allows you to upload audio and video files from your computer system to your site and display these files in a user-friendly way. Site participants may then download these files to the podcaster of their choice (including most computers with podcaster software) in order to play them. Many instructors use podcasts to make audio lectures, video presentations, slideshow presentations, and other material available to students outside of class. NOTE: Blackboard supports the upload and download of the podcast format, but only Scholar offers the automatic feed to the user's podcaster (such as iTunes).
Portfolios	The Portfolio Templates tool allows you, the site organizer, to add portfolio templates to your site and manage their use by site participants. A portfolio template defines the layout, style, and content of all portfolios that are based on it. If you are a site organizer, you can create templates that support the intended purpose(s) of portfolios on your site. You might create one template to support resumes or other forms of self-presentation. You might create another for displaying the results of teaching and learning as demonstrated in

	<p>the contents of general education or co-curricular progress matrices. Or you might create a template that is tailored for assessment and accreditation portfolios, such as those that integrate learning across many data structures and sites to show learning in relation to institutional values or desired outcomes. See <a href="http://eportfolio.vt.edu/">http://eportfolio.vt.edu/</a> for more information on how ePortfolio and Scholar work together at Virginia Tech for personal use, course assessments, and for college and university accreditation purposes.</p>
Preferences	<p>The Preferences tool allows you to manage your site links, change email notification options, and specify time zone and languages. This tool is available in My Workspace.</p>
Search	<p>The Search tool allows you to search an entire site to find documents and other materials that contain text you specify. The tool searches the content and file names of the following file types in Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .doc (MS Word document)</li> <li>• .pdf (portable document format)</li> <li>• .ppt (MS PowerPoint presentation)</li> <li>• .xsl (MS Excel).xsd (XML schema definition for forms)</li> <li>• .html, and .xhtml</li> </ul> <p>It also searches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emails in the Email Archive</li> <li>• wikis</li> <li>• announcements (searches both the subject and content of announcements)</li> <li>• chat messages (searches both the header and body of chat messages)</li> <li>• titles (but not content) of .zip (Winzip archive) and .sit (Stuffit archive) files</li> </ul>
Sections	<p>The Sections tool provides a way for instructors to manage multiple sections of a course in a single course site. If you are an instructor, this tool can help you manage a course that includes lectures, labs, discussions, studio work, and/or recitations. Using this tool, you may set up the various sections of a course and assign Teaching Assistants or Instructors to particular sections.</p>
Sign-up	<p>An online scheduler for students and participants to sign up for timeslots. This replaces the 'sign-up sheets on an office door' with an online alternative. Faculty use this tool to allow students to sign up for office hours, meetings, review sessions and other events in one convenient place. This tool can also be used in project sites to create meetings for participants or to schedule support for conferences. If a time slot is full, participants can add themselves to a waitlist. The tool automatically "promotes" a participant when a slot becomes available and sends an email notification.</p>
Wiki	<p>The Wiki tool allows your site participants to create and maintain a wiki (that is, a web site that allows groups of people to create and change its content without possessing any web programming skills or technical knowledge). Instead of using programming commands to format text, create new pages, insert pictures and links, etc., users insert special punctuation that is</p>

